



CITY SNIPPETS

Information. Well Crafted.

INITIATIVE BRINGS FREE WIFI TO HICKORY PUBLIC LIBRARY PARKING LOTS

Free 5G WiFi is now available in Hickory Public Library parking lots as part of the state's N.C. Student Connect partnership and "Park and Learn" project.

The new WiFi network is in action at both Hickory Public Library branches - Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Ridgeview Branch Library. To connect to a network while in the vicinity of a library, look for NCGuestWiFi in your device's list of available networks.



Intended to create accessible sites where students can connect to the internet to download lessons in order to complete assignments at home, the parking lot WiFi is available 24/7 and filtered to be compliant with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Although provided primarily for students, the internet access is available for anyone with a capable mobile device.

The Park and Learn project, which is funded by a federal CARES Act grant, is part of a broader effort called N.C. Student Connect and aims to provide free high-speed WiFi access to students in rural communities.

N.C. Student Connect was created this year to improve internet connectivity and fill gaps that are a barrier to remote learning. The \$40 million initiative is a partnership of state government agencies, including the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Hometown Strong, the Department of Information Technology, the Governor's Education Advisor, and the N.C. Business Committee for Education, to rapidly connect students with remote learning. In addition to WiFi access sites, the initiative is providing 100,000 hotspots for students and remote learning professional development for educators.

Patrick Beaver Memorial Library is located at 375 3rd St NE on the SALT Block. Ridgeview Branch Library is located at 706 1st St SW, with physical operations temporarily located inside the neighboring Ridgeview Recreation Center at 115 7th Ave SW.

For more information about Hickory Public Library, available WiFi networks, and other remote learning tools, please call 828-304-0500.

COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM

Need help with housing or utility bills?

Hickory residents who have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic may apply for financial assistance through a partnership program between the City of Hickory and Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (GHCCM). The COVID-19 relief program is funded by Community Development Block Grant funding through the CARES Act (CDBG-CV). Funds may be used to make emergency grant payments for rent/mortgage, power, natural gas, and water/sewer utility bills on behalf of Hickory households in need. For additional information and eligibility requirements, please contact Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry at 828-327-0979.

ADDRESS

76 North Center Street

WEBSITE

HickoryNC.gov

PHONE

828.323.7400

ISSUE

February 2021

HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 2 & 16

7 p.m.

Julian G. Whitener

Municipal Building (City Hall)

www.HickoryNC.gov



COVID-19 UPDATES

For Hickory operational changes and updates regarding the pandemic:

<https://www.hickorync.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates>

GOOSEBUMPS: THE SCIENCE OF FEAR

Exhibit Now Open

Catawba Science Center

www.CatawbaScience.com

THE WEIR

March 5 - 21

Hickory Community Theatre

www.HickoryTheatre.org

CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, March 6

7:30 p.m.

Virtual and Drendel Auditorium

Western Piedmont Symphony

www.WPSymphony.org

WORKS BY WARHOL

Exhibit Open Through June 6

Hickory Museum of Art

www.HickoryArt.org

LR VISITING WRITERS SERIES: COLM TÓIBÍN & PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE

Thursday, March 18

Friday, March 19

7 p.m.

Belk Centrum - LRU

www.LR.edu/VWS

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 27

Ages 2-3: 9 a.m.

Ages 4-5: 10 a.m.

Ages 6-7: 11 a.m.

Ages 7-12: 8:15 p.m.

Henry Fork River Park

*Online Registration Required

*Registration Opens March 1

TRIVIUM LANDS 4TH TENANT

On December 22, 2020, the City of Hickory, Catawba County, and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) announced American Fuji Seal, Inc. as the fourth tenant in the Trivium Corporate Center.

American Fuji Seal is a group company of Fuji Seal International, Inc., headquartered in Osaka, Japan. American Fuji Seal plans to construct a 260,000 square foot manufacturing facility for the production of shrink sleeve labels for the food, beverage, home and personal care, and pharmaceutical industries.

Over the next five years, American Fuji Seal plans to create 101 jobs and invest a minimum of \$52 million in new facility construction, machinery, and equipment. Salaries for the new employees will vary by position and experience with an overall average salary of \$48,931, which is higher than the Catawba County average wage.



NEW TRIVIUM TENANT:



American Fuji Seal plans to hire a variety of employees for the new manufacturing operation in areas of graphic design, production, engineering and management. Hiring is expected to begin in 2022.



HICKORY POLICE DEPARTMENT JOINS NATIONAL ABLE PROJECT

Hickory Police Department has been accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project, Georgetown University Law Center's national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.

By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, Hickory Police Department joins a select group of more than 70 other law enforcement agencies and statewide and regional training academies from across the country.

Backed by prominent civil rights and law enforcement leaders, the evidence-based, field-tested ABLE Project was developed by Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program in collaboration with global law firm Sheppard Mullin LLP to provide practical active bystandership strategies and tactics to law enforcement officers to prevent misconduct, reduce mistakes, and promote health and wellness.

ABLE gives officers the tools they need to overcome the innate and powerful inhibitors all individuals face when called upon to intervene in actions taken by their peers.

ABLE Project Train-The-Trainer events take place every month. By the end of February, Hickory Police Department instructors will be certified as ABLE trainers; and over the coming months, all of the Department's officers will receive 8 hours of evidence-based active bystandership education designed not only to prevent harm, but to change the culture of policing.